

July 23, 1992

VETERINARY SERVICES NOTICE

Subject: Treatment of Non-food Animal Products and Byproducts (Trophies
Such as Deer Hides and Racks, Other Hides or Skins, Etc.) from
Mexico for Boophilus sp. and Other Ticks Prior to Entry into the
United States Via Land Border Ports

To: Directors, VS Regions
Area Veterinarians in Charge, VS
Veterinary Medical Officers, PPQ

The purpose of this Notice is to provide Veterinary Services' policy on Mexican animal trophies (deer hides, racks, etc.) and other green animal skins or hides (raw, fresh, untreated) imported into the United States.

Animal materials that are the subject of this Notice, being presented for entry at the border ports, must be accompanied by a signed statement from the owner/importer certifying that the materials are of Mexican origin.

Tanned animal hides and clean, dry racks (antlers) are eligible for importation without restriction.

Deer skins and other hides that are still on the animal carcasses are not eligible for importation.

Green animal hides from various species and hides and racks of deer from Mexico may qualify for entry if any of the following requirements are met:

1. Hides and racks presented at the port of entry are accompanied by a certificate signed by a veterinary official of the Mexican Government stating that the hides and racks have been found to be free of ticks and have been treated with an acaricide. The hides and racks must be free of ticks on inspection at the port of entry.

OR

2. Hides and racks, presented without a Mexican Government certificate, that are found to be free of ticks on inspection may be dipped at a Mexican cattle export facility. Treated hides must be packed in heavy plastic bags. Such materials are eligible for unrestricted entry into the United States immediately upon certification by a Mexican or U.S. port official that the materials are free of ticks and have been treated with an acaricide.

Hides and racks that have ticks on inspection **WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE** for entry into the United States until 7 days after they have been treated with an acaricide and found free of ticks on reinspection.

OR

3. Hides that are frozen to a solid non-pliable state (rock-hard) may be allowed entry into the United States. The importer must present a written statement with his or the owner's signature certifying that the hides have been frozen for at least 24 hours.

OR

4. Racks that are free of ticks upon inspection may be allowed entry into the United States. Racks that are attached to heads with skins will be handled as hides.

Directors, VS et al.

2

OR

5. All other hides and racks must be imported as restricted products and can only be consigned to an establishment approved by the USDA to process restricted Mexican materials (Veterinary Services Notice, March 29, 1990 - Establishments Approved to Import and Process Restricted Animal Products and Byproducts, Code - MDT). Such products must be packed in heavy plastic bags or double bagged. Bags are to be sealed with an official USDA seal and a VS Form 16-78, "Report of Entry, Shipment, and Final Disposition of Restricted Imported Meats, Animal Byproducts, and Other Materials," must accompany the shipment. The VS Form 16-78 shall contain the residential address and telephone number of the importer. The restricted hides and racks must then be transported by common carrier or a designated representative of an approved establishment to the USDA-approved facility for processing. An approved establishment that uses its own personnel or representative to transport restricted materials from the port to its facility must submit the name of its representative to the Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), officials at the port of entry. The name(s) must be submitted in writing, at least 72 hours in advance of entry of the materials. Approval for the use of a designated person(s) may be granted for 1 year.

/s/

Billy G. Johnson
Deputy Administrator
Veterinary Services